

REMARKS

Claims 5-9 were pending in the application. Claims 5, 6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The claims have been amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification

The amendment filed June 15, 2007 has been objected to for introducing new matter into the disclosure. The Examiner states that the features of "the arc splitter stack being interchangeable with the cooling plate" as recited in claim 5 and "the arc quenching device being either an insertable cooling plate or an arc splitter stack but not both" recited in claim 9 are not supported by the original disclosure. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection

With respect to claim 5, the subject matter which was objected to was, in fact, included in the original disclosure. The Specification sets forth "switching devices which are otherwise identical in design can optionally be equipped with arc-quenching devices in the form of cooling plates or in the form of arc splitter plate stacks." *See*, page 2, lines 9-11. Further, claim 1 as originally filed recited "cooling plates (16) and arc splitter plate stacks (18), which are interchangeable with said cooling plates." Thus, no new matter has been added to claim 5.

With respect to claim 9, the claim has been amended and the subject matter which was objected to is no longer recited in claim 9.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner states that the features of "the arc splitter stack being interchangeable with the cooling plate" recited in claim 5 and "the arc quenching device being

either an insertable cooling plate or an arc splitter stack but not both” as recited in claim 9 must be shown in the drawings or cancelled from the claims.

With respect to claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that the drawings show every feature of the invention specified in the claim. As set forth above, the specification states that the switching devices can optionally be equipped with arc-quenching devices in the form of cooling plates or arc splitter stacks. Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawings show the switching devices with arc-quenching devices in the form of cooling plates, while Figs. 4 and 5 of the drawings show the switching devices with arc-quenching devices in the form of arc splitter stacks. Thus, the drawings show the feature of “the arc splitter stack being interchangeable with the cooling plate.”

With respect to claim 9, it is respectfully submitted that the claim 9 has been amended and no longer recites the feature objected to above.

Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Claims

Claim 6 was objected to for informalities. It is respectfully submitted that claim 6 has been amended to address the objections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the claims is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 5,589,672 to Uchida et al (“Uchida”). Claims 5, 6, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,703,575 to Yamamoto (“Yamamoto”).

Uchida et al. describes a circuit breaker with an arc quenching device in the form of a plurality of grids 2 mounted to an insulation partition 22. See Fig. 14. “Pressing partitions of the insulation partition 22 press the end surfaces of the grids 2 and fix the grids 2.

Yamamoto describes an arc extinguishing system for a contact switching apparatus that includes a plurality of arc extinguishing grid plates 7.

In the present application, independent claim 9 has been amended to recite "the arc splitter stack being interchangeable with the cooling plate." This amendment is supported by, for example, claim 1, as originally filed, and paragraph 7 of the Specification.

Claim 5 recites "guide and retaining elements configured to retain the arc quenching device, wherein the arc quenching device is, alternatively, one of an arc splitter stack and a cooling plate, the arc splitter stack being interchangeable with the cooling plate." Similarly, claim 9 recites "an arc quenching device being either an insertable cooling plate or an arc splitter stack, the arc splitter stack being interchangeable with the cooling plate, the housing guide and retaining elements and the cover guide and retaining elements being configured to retain the arc quenching device."

Applicants respectfully submit that both Uchida et al. and Yamamoto fail to describe an electrical switching device including one of two types of interchangeable arc quenching devices.

With respect to Uchida et al., the Examiner has deemed the plurality of grids 2 to correspond to the arc splitter stack of claim 5 and the insulation partition 22 to correspond to the cooling plate. Applicants submit that the insulation partition is not a cooling plate. Further, the grids and partition are disposed cooperatively in the circuit breaker. "The pressing projections 22f of the insulation partition 22 press the end surfaces of the grids 2 and fix the grids" (Uchida et al., column 9, lines 59-61). Thus, Uchida et al. does not disclose that the insulation partition and grids are interchangeable.

With respect to Yamamoto, the Examiner has deemed one of the plurality of arc extinguishing grid plates 7 to correspond to the cooling plate of claim 5 with the rest of the plates 7 corresponding to the arc splitter stack. Applicants submit that Yamamoto does not teach that one of the plurality of arc extinguishing grid plates 7 is interchangeable with the rest of the plates 7.

Withdrawal of the respective rejections of claims 5, 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by one or both of Uchida et al. and Yamamoto is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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